



WOMEN OF PROVIDENCE IN COLLABORATION

The first week reflection starts us on a Providence Advent journey:

"There will be signs in the sun, moon, and the stars, and on Earth, nations will be in dismay, perplexed by the roaring of the sea and waves. People will be frightened anticipating what is coming upon the world, for the powers of the heavens will be shaken. (Luke 21:25-26) ... Advent is a gift from our Provident God—a call to slow down our pace and notice the Providence moments that will surely come in the days ahead.

From the Director's Desk

Sr. Mary Stanco, HM

As we close out 2024 and prepare for 2025, it is a time to anticipate the future while at the same time staying grounded in the present moment as we enter into the Advent season. With assistance from Sr. Mary Tomilson, SP, we will be posting the Advent reflections through Facebook and by email.

Preparations are underway for a gathering of Providence sisters under 60 for September 5-8, 2025. The funds for the planning and implementation of the event are from LCWR's Emerging Religious Life Fund for Sisters under 55. The funds received in 2024 were put towards planning with a facilitator, Sr. Kristin Matthes, SNDdeN and in consultation with Sr. Mary Ann Zollman, BVM. We have been awarded additional funds for 2025 which will be used to host the weekend at Loyola University's Environmental and Spirituality Center in Woodstock, Illinois. It is an opportunity for sisters under 60 to gather and collaboratively look ahead to the future together as Providence sisters.

On October 4-6, 2024, at the Sisters of the Humility of Mary's Community Center at Villa Maria, Pennsylvania Sisters Melissa Cessac, CDP, Megan Grewing, CDP, Megan Grewing, CDP, Wendolyn Lopez-Santos, CDP, Joni Luna, SP and Arriane Whittaker, SP gathered to plan for the 2025 gathering. The Sisters on the planning team developed a purpose statement for the event *"Rooted in our shared charism of Providence, we will nurture a foundation on which to strengthen our relationship with each other and our sense of community so that we can continue making God's Providence visible for our world."* Additional planning will continue as we move closer to the weekend. Please save the date, September 5-8, 2025 to attend or to support the sisters who will be attending the weekend. More details will be shared in January and registration will begin in March 2025.

The Executive Board met November 6-7, 2024 to discuss plans for the next Providence Event in 2026. The Governing Board met November 18, 2024 to give input on a planning team that will begin meeting in January 2025. We will keep you posted!

May we take the peace we find in Advent as we come to know Christ among us into the New Year.



Planning team for the September 2025 gathering of sisters under 60.

Sisters Kristin Matthes, SNDdeN, Joni Luna, SP, Megan Grewing, CDP, Arriane Whittaker, SP
Wendolyn Lopez-Santos, CDP, Melissa Cessac, CDP, and Mary Stanco, HM (WPC)

*Sisters of Providence of
St. Vincent de Paul, Kingston*

Sisters of Providence of St. Vincent de Paul Announce Governance Transfer

Kingston, ON, June 17, 2024 – After years of careful consideration, thoughtful contemplation and discernment, the Sisters of Providence of St. Vincent de Paul have chosen to transfer their congregation’s governance to a Commissary. This decision signifies the adoption of a new type of governance model, an historic first among Catholic congregations in English Canada.

The Sisters are pleased to announce that Sister Bonnie MacLellan, General Superior of the Sisters of St. Joseph of Sault Ste. Marie, has graciously accepted the role of Commissary for their congregation. This significant milestone was commemorated with a formal ceremony on June 16, 2024, at Providence Motherhouse in Kingston, Ontario.

The Sisters’ decision to transfer governance to a Commissary reflects years of learning and planning, aligning with their hopes and vision for the future of their congregation and what they

“We leave our congregation and our responsibilities in the very capable hands of Sister Bonnie MacLellan. This marks a new chapter for our congregation, and we’re grateful for our partnership with Sister Bonnie. We’ve been very intentional with the choices and decisions that have led us here, and we are confident in those who will carry on our legacy.”

...

“Walking with the Sisters of Providence and serving their Sisters as Commissary is indeed a privilege and a graced moment for the Sisters of St. Joseph of Sault Ste. Marie,” added Sister Bonnie MacLellan. “Together, we will be forging a shared model of consecrated life that continues in new ways the mission of the Sisters of Providence and the Sisters of St. Joseph of Sault Ste. Marie.”

Additionally, Sister Bonnie MacLellan has selected a Commissary Delegate in Sister Bonnie Chesser, a fellow Sister of St. Joseph of Sault Ste. Marie, who will provide more frequent onsite support to the Sisters of Providence of St. Vincent de Paul on the Commissary’s behalf.

The Sisters of Providence of St. Vincent de Paul are confident in the capable leadership of Sister Bonnie MacLellan and Sister Bonnie Chesser,

believe is their calling from God at this time. Beginning in 2014, the Sisters started examining future demographics and needs, leading to the creation of a long-range plan in 2015. By 2021, the congregation began serious discussions about the future of governance, exploring new possibilities under Canon law.

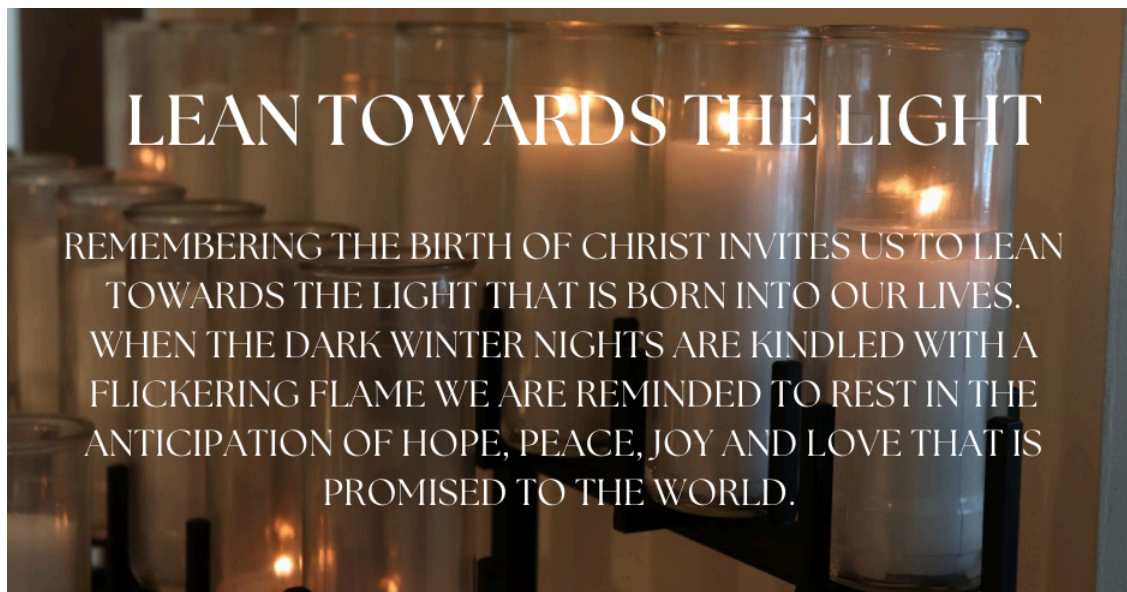
“As a group, the Sisters were of one heart and came to the conclusion about the necessary next steps for the future of our congregation,” shared Sister Sandra Shannon on behalf of the Sisters of Providence of St. Vincent de Paul Leadership Team.

knowing they will guide the congregation with wisdom and compassion. As the Sisters of Providence embark on this new chapter, they are filled with hope for the future, secure in the knowledge that their legacy will endure through the dedication of those they have mentored and inspired. Embracing this new governance model, the Sisters see it not merely as an administrative shift, but as a profound covenant, uniting hearts and fostering collaboration in their sacred mission. This model represents a departure from traditional hierarchical structures, embodying a spirit of inclusivity and shared responsibility in their journey of consecrated life.

To read more, click here [Sisters of Providence of St. Vincent de Paul | Serving with compassion, trusting in Providence, we walk in hope.](#)

Sisters of Providence, Saint Mary of the Woods

Follow this link: [Sisters of Providence to host 'Advent Meditations' in December](#)



**JOIN TOGETHER, VIRTUALLY,
FROM THE SHRINE OF ST.
MOTHER THEODORE GUERIN
INTO THE QUIET OF YOUR
HOME TO REMEMBER,
REST, AND LEAN TOWARDS THE
LIGHT.**

**MONDAYS IN
DECEMBER
2, 9, 16, 23, 2024
7:00 PM - 8:00 PM**

For registration or to learn more, visit: spsmw.org/event/advent-meditations/2024-12-02

**FACILITATORS WILL BE
SARAH KNOBLOCK, DIRECTOR OF VOLUNTEER SERVICES,
CAMI PRITCHETT, PA AND MISSION ADVANCEMENT,
SR. ANN CASPER, SP,
AND BRIDGET MOONEY, DIRECTOR OF PROGRAMS & EVENTS FOR MOTW**

Sisters of Providence, Holyoke

Volunteer Ombudsman Recognized

submitted by Sr. Kathleen Popko, SP

After her retirement, Sr. Geraldine Noonan, SP became a nursing home ombudsman for Greater Springfield Senior Services, Inc. (GSSSI) and continued in that role for the next 18 years!



The long-term care ombudsman program is a state and federally mandated service for all residents in area nursing and rest homes to ensure that their personal rights are respected and that they receive treatment in clean, comfortable environments. They visit with residents and listen to the concerns, address issues affecting the quality of their care, and investigate complaints made by residents or family members and work with the facility to resolve them.

As ombudsman, Sr. Geraldine has served at three long-term care facilities, most recently at the Agawam East Nursing and Rehabilitation / Memory Care. She visited the facility at least once a week as well as attended a monthly meeting for ombudsmen at the Greater Springfield Senior Services Office. At yearend, she resigned from her volunteer role.

Much to her surprise, on February 26, Allan Mitchell, GSSSI supervisor of the ombudsman program, and Darlene Routeir, assistant, invited Sr. Geraldine to lunch and presented her with an approximately 14-inch tall lantern with a candle inside. On the glass was engraved: "In recognition of 18 years of dedicated service. Your example guides us all. GSSSI LTC Ombudsman."

In addition, she was presented with a letter from Carolyn Finn, director of the Massachusetts Executive Office – Long-term Care Ombudsman Program, in which she thanked Sr. Geraldine for her many years of service saying she was an "invaluable member of the team since 2005" and added "you have been steadfast in your commitment and advocacy for vulnerable adults...We have been truly blessed with your many gifts and are most grateful...you are a shining example of meaningful service to others, without fanfare or fuss!"

Sr. Geraldine was well prepared for her ombudsman role. Following courses in gerontology at St. Mary of-the-Woods College in Indiana, she became the activities and retirement director for the Sisters of Providence; simultaneously she began service as retirement research director for the Worcester Retirement Collaborative Planning Committee. Next she ministered in spiritual care at the Beaven Kelly Home in Holyoke and then, for the following 7 years, was the administrator of St. Luke's Home, an 89-unit rest home in Springfield, MA.

Sisters of Providence, Montreal

Sisters Celebrate Unity

with Eye to the Future

Looking up the center aisle of a great cathedral Mary, Queen of the World Cathedral was filled with Sisters, friends and staff from around the world. The Church is patterned directly after St.

*from Sisters of Providence,
Mother Joseph website*

Sisters, Associates, friends and staff gathered from around the world to celebrate and kick-off the new governance structure for the Sisters of Providence.

The three-day celebration began with Mass at Mary, Queen of the World Cathedral in Montreal, Canada, not far from the Sisters' motherhouse. Archbishop Christian Lépine celebrated the liturgy which included the start of a formal inquiry into a presumed miracle attributed to the intercession of Blessed Emilie Gamelin.



Peter's in Rome. Over the course of the gathering, participants enjoyed the world premiere of a play commissioned just for the celebration. In five acts focusing on episodes of the life of Blessed Emilie, Mother Bernarda and Mother Joseph, the actors traced the history of the Sisters of Providence from their founding in 1843 until present day. After each act, the audience reflected on which lessons meant the most to them today and how they would live those lessons as they continue the mission today.

On January 1, 2025, the governance of Mother Joseph in the Western United States, Mother Bernarda Morin in Chile and Holy Angels and Emilie Gamelin in Canada will be unified into a single Congregational governance.

Follow this link for complete story [Sisters Celebrate Unity with Eye to the Future – Sisters of Providence, Mother Joseph Province](#)



Congregational Leader Sr. Alba Letelier and Vice-Postulator Karin Dufault open the liturgy to celebrate the opening of the formal investigation of the presumed miracle. At the conclusion of the Mass, all those involved took a solemn vow to faithfully perform their duties and signed documents that will be retained with the official sainthood archives.

Sisters of Divine Providence, Wakefield, RI

A Busy Generalate Summer

submitted by Sr. Barbara McMullen, CDP

Visitation of the U.S./Caribbean Province.

In early June the Congregational Leadership Team traveled to Pittsburgh for Visitation of the United States Province. We spent from June 2-10 there, holding Visitation meetings with the Sisters as a whole, meeting with the Provincial Leadership Team, and having meetings of four different age cohorts another day. Following our Visitation time, we participated in the Province's annual assembly days.



Next Congregational Chapter in South Korea.

In light of some of our current Congregational realities, we have decided to hold our next Congregational Chapter in South Korea at the St. Imbert Retreat Center from August 30 to September 15, 2026. The Chapter itself will be September 1-14, with two days prior to arrive and with everyone departing on September 15. This will be the first time the Chapter will be held in South Korea.



Launch of New Congregational Website.

We want to announce that we have a New Congregational Website! It was launched on March 11 and has all four languages in our international Congregation. Each part of the Congregation will be able to see and read its contents in their own language. The Congregational Leadership Team, and specifically Sr. Rosa Eunsoon Kim, have spent many months, starting last November, preparing this website to be user friendly and available to the public, as well as to have a "Members Only" page. The pictorial Directory of each sister in the Congregation is also there under the Members Only section. We hope that our Women of Providence members will take some time to browse through all the sections to see everything that is there now. You can find our new website at: www.cdpgeneralate.org

Congregation of Divine Providence, Melbourne KY

Introducing Congregation of Divine Providence

Newly Elected Provincial Team



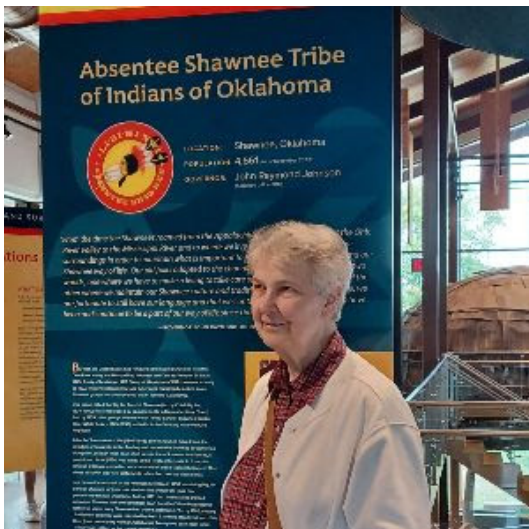
Sr. Barbara Rohe - Provincial, Sr. Mary Agnes Cashman - Councilor,
 Sr. Margaret Stallmeyer - Councilor, Treasurer, Sr. Lynn Stenken - Councilor, Vicar,
 Sr. Leslie Keener, Councilor, Secretary

From WPC Providence Justice Collaborative

submitted by Alice Gerdeman, CDP

On September 26, 2024 the first group of sisters visited the new Great Council State Park near Xenia, Ohio. Several more groups are being planned this Fall. The park opened in June of 2024. The interpretive center focuses on the history and lives of the Shawnee. It is located in an area that was the capital of the Shawnee, Callaakafi, from 1777 to 1780 before the Shawnee were forcibly removed from Ohio to Oklahoma. Their ancestors had lived in the Ohio Valley for more than 14,000 years. The interpretive center was built in collaboration with 3 Shawnee nations, the Eastern Shawnee, Absentee Shawnee, and Shawnee Tribes. In a short film, present day Shawnee people tell the history of Great Council from their perspective and their own feelings as they return to what they call their home.

Photos feature: Sisters Jackie Schack, Juanita Nadicksbernd and Dolores Gohs at the Great Council State Park viewing the exhibits on the Absentee Shawnee Tribe of Indians of Oklahoma, Tribes Today, replica of a tribal home, and the story of the removal to Oklahoma.





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